

Maricopa Association of Governments Building Code Amendments and Standards Manual	
BCAS #7	
Title: Uniform Application for Fireblocking per Section 302.11 of the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC)	
Originally Reviewed by MAG Building Codes Committee: 5/21/2003	
Updated by MAG Building Codes Committee: 6/20/2012	

2012 IRC Section 302.11 states: “**Fireblocking.** In combustible construction, fireblocking shall be provided to cut off all concealed draft openings (both vertical and horizontal) and to form an effective fire barrier between stories, and between a top *story* and the roof space.

Fireblocking shall be provided in wood-frame construction in the following locations:

1. In concealed spaces of stud walls and partitions, including furred spaces and parallel rows of studs or staggered studs, as follows:
 - 1.1 Vertically at the ceiling and floor levels.
 - 1.2 Horizontally at intervals not exceeding 10 feet (3048 mm).
2. At all interconnections between concealed vertical and horizontal spaces such as occur at soffits, drop ceilings and cove ceilings.
3. In concealed spaces between stair stringers at the top and bottom of the run. Enclosed spaces under stairs shall comply with Section R302.7.
4. At openings around vents, pipes, ducts, cables and wires at ceiling and floor level, with an *approved* material to resist the free passage of flame and products of combustion. The material filling this annular space shall not be required to meet the ASTM E 136 requirements.
5. For the fireblocking of chimneys and fireplaces, see Section R1003.19.
6. Fireblocking of cornices of a two-family *dwelling* is required at the line of *dwelling unit* separation.”

2012 IRC Section 302.11.1 states, “**Fireblocking materials.** Except as provided in Section R302.11, Item 4, fireblocking shall consist of the following materials:

1. Two-inch (51 mm) nominal lumber.
2. Two thicknesses of 1-inch (25.4 mm) nominal lumber with broken lap joints.
3. One thickness of 23/32-inch (18.3 mm) wood structural panels with joints backed by 23/32-inch (18.3 mm) wood structural panels.
4. One thickness of 3/4-inch (19.1 mm) particleboard with joints backed by 3/4-inch (19.1 mm) particleboard.
5. One-half-inch (12.7 mm) gypsum board.
6. One-quarter-inch (6.4 mm) cement-based millboard.
7. Batts or blankets of mineral wool or glass fiber or other *approved* materials installed in such a manner as to be securely retained in place.
8. Cellulose insulation installed as tested for the specific application.”

2012 IRC Section 302.11.2 states, “**Fireblocking integrity.** The integrity of all fireblocks shall be maintained.”

Analysis of discussion and recommendation

Based on the fact that foam products which are not tested to comply with ASTM E814 or ANSI/UL 1479 are not approved fire block material, the MAG Building Codes Committee consensus is to not allow the use of foam products that are not listed as such to maintain the fireblocking integrity required in the 2012 IRC Section 302.11.2.